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N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENT

by Colin Hamilton

"Why is it so highly rated in the C.P. Catalogue?" That's a question we are occasionally asked in relation to the 1960 Pictorial 3d counter coil pair on **chalk-surfaced paper**. On the face of things, it's a not unreasonable question. The basic stamp itself is common enough, and there is no readily available information (not even in the N.Z. Handbooks) which might explain the relative scarcity of this item which its Catalogue price implies.

Long-time readers of these columns will (or should!) know the answer, of course, so perhaps they will bear with me while I review the situation for our many newer subscribers.

These pairs in fact come from a particular making of 3d counter rolls in September 1966. The vast bulk of the sheets used in this making were on the usual ordinary paper, but an unknown (albeit extremely small) number of chalky paper sheets was included. Precisely how this came about is not known. It is, however, known that the process of manufacture of these rolls required a number of sheets which was an exact multiple of 24. So a few sheets may well have been added, from a different source, to round up the bulk to a suitable number. (In these circumstances, the sole concern of the Post Office would be to ensure that the stamps were of the correct denomination — the fact that the added sheets were on a different paper would be immaterial, and quite fortuitous.)

Be that as it may, the end result was a very limited number of counter rolls made up of a mixture of ordinary and chalky paper strips of stamps, and these exceptional rolls were the only source of chalky counter coil pairs of this value (and of the directly related "mixed-paper" variety). The distribution of the chalky strips within each roll was evidently identical, giving chalky pairs with section numbers 1, 2, 3 and 18, and mixed-paper pairs numbered 4, 17 and 19. As far as I am aware, no unsevered roll of this type has survived intact, but I have seen a total of five complete numbered sets of pairs, all conforming exactly with such a make-up. Moreover, with a solitary exception, no individual 'chalky' or 'mixed' 3d coil pair has been recorded with a section number other than those listed above. The one exception is a 'mixed' pair with section no. 3. I saw this pair several years ago, and it appeared perfectly authentic, but nothing is known of its origins, nor of the minimum of eleven similar pairs which must have been produced.

A £45,000 Mystery! We have recently seen illustrated an intriguing fiscal item. Presumably part of an (unidentified) legal document, it carried seven ultra-high value Long Fiscal stamps, all

tied by the Stamp Duties Dept Auckland c.d.s. of various dates in 1928. In chronological order of franking, the seven stamps were of the following face values: £6,400 (11th May), £1,000 and £300 (both 26th May), £8,200 (14th June), £10,500 (22nd June), £8,000 (20th Dec.), and £11,000 (21st Dec.). That's a total of no less than £45,400 — a very considerable sum today, an absolutely enormous one in 1928. One can't help wondering what the document referred to, and why the duty payments were apparently irregularly spread over a period of seven months. Incidentally, the number of "irregular" face values in these issues is in theory infinite, since they were printed individually as required. So anyone attempting to collect a "complete set" would have a whale of a job on his hands! However, we'd be interested to learn of (a) the highest individual value recorded, and (b) the highest total of values affixed to a single document.

MISCELLANY

Some pickings from a quality collection just purchased — all new stock. Not in strict order of Catalogue listing, so to be studied carefully.

601	Christchurch Exhibition. An exceptionally fine, well-centred mint set of 4, beautifully fresh colours. Any previous hingeing so light as to be barely perceptible. Lovely set!	£245.00
602	Auckland Exhibition. Complete set, very fine mint	£250.00
603(a)	1920 Victory. Set of 7, ½d — 1/- (incl. 2d on ½d surcharge), finest mint	£35.00
	(b) As above. Superb unhinged mint copy of the ½d with variety Watermark Inverted (S9aZ). A scarce one!	£25.00
	(c) As above. Unhinged mint block of 4 of the 1d in pale carmine. Perfect in all respects	£3.50
	(d) As above. Marginal block of the 2d on ½d (S12a) in yellow-green. Again perfect unhinged	£7.50
604(a)	1923 Map Stamp. Set of all three issues — on De La Rue, Jones and Cowan Unsurfaced papers respectively — all mint unhinged (S16a/b/c)	£22.50
	(b) As above. Superb mint unhinged block of 6 on De La Rue paper	£7.50
	(c) As above. Marginal block of 4 (with selvage bars) on Jones paper. Mint unhinged	£15.00
	(d) As above. Left marginal block of 4 on Cowan paper. Yet again superb unhinged mint	£75.00
605(a)	Dunedin Exhibition. Mint set of 3, lightly hinged and superfine	£35.00
	(b) As above. The set in matching left marginal blocks of 4. Brilliant unhinged	£175.00
	(c) As above. ½d corner block of 4 including the R2/2 'Horseshoe' variety listed as Flaw (a) on Temp. Page S11 in our Catalogue. Single selvage hinge — stamps unmounted	£10.00

606(a)	1936 ANZAC. Set of eight corner blocks of 4 (four blocks each value), showing the complete range of plate number positions. It should be noted that in this and some other contemporary issues — Chambers of Commerce, 1935/6/7 Healths — the issued sheets carried the plate number in any one corner only. The set of eight mint plate blocks, scarce thus	£19.50
(b)	As above. Set of two plate blocks (one each value) — our choice of sheet position	£4.00
607(a)	Chambers of Commerce Empire Conference. Set of six plate blocks, one position in each value, but including both plate numbers 1 and 2 of the 1d ..	£37.50
(b)	As above. ½d and 1d (plate 1) plate blocks complete in all positions. Eight blocks	£5.50
608	1929 Health. Superb block of 4, unhinged mint and pristine fresh	£67.50
609	1930 Health. A magnificent unhinged corner block of 4 with sheet serial number. Not a vestige of the age staining that afflicts so many of this issue. The block, rare in such superb condition	£125.00
610	1932 Health. Block of 4 with top selvage. Unhinged mint and superfine, if centred just fractionally left	£100.00
611	1933 Health. Brilliant unhinged mint block of 4. Two constant varieties (full details supplied) allow the block to be plated to Rows 2 - 3, Nos. 8 - 9 ..	£52.50
612	1935 Health. Corner block of 4 with plate no. 1 at top right. Finest mint unhinged	£10.00
613	1936 Health. Set of two plate blocks, showing plate nos. 1 (at bottom left) and 2 (at top right). Superb mint unhinged	£12.50
614(a)	1931 Air Mail. The original set of 3 (3d, 4d, 7d), immaculate unhinged mint. ..	£75.00
(b)	As above. The very scarce April 1935 issue of the 3d in a new perf. 14x15 (V1b), very fine mint, lightly hinged, and much better centred than usual. Cat. \$400 (S.G. £225)	£85.00
(c)	As above. The 5d on 3d provisional (V4a), specially issued in some haste to cover the 2d postage plus 3d special air mail fee fixed for the 1931 Christmas flights. Mint unhinged £15.00 ; or fine used	£9.00
(d)	As above. Marginal block of 4 of the provisional, unhinged and superfine ..	£65.00
615(a)	1934 7d Trans Tasman (V5a). Mint unhinged	£45.00
(b)	As above, but very lightly hinged copy	£35.00
616	King George V Recess-Print Plate Proofs. A complete set of all 12 values (1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d, 9d, 1/-), each imperf. printed in black on papers of varying thickness. Seldom seen complete — "sets" usually lack the 5d and 8d at least	£50.00

617(a)	King George V Surface-Print Plate Proofs. Set of 4 (½d, 1½d, 2d, 3d) each imperf. and printed in black or grey-black on thin glazed card	£10.00
(b)	As above. An exactly similar set, but printed on gummed watermarked paper	£10.00
618(a)	K.G.V. 4d Yellow. The major R1/6 re-entry (KV5a(a)), in marginal horizontal pair with a normal stamp. Superfine mint	£25.00
(b)	As above. Similar pair (non-marginal), one stamp being the R4/10 "club-foot" re-entry (KV5a(b))	£27.50
619(a)	K.G.V 5d Major Error. A magnificent Imperforate Pair (K7a(Y), S.G. 487b). Mint unhinged, and brilliantly fresh	£100.00
(b)	As above. Similar pair, also unhinged and of equally fine facial appearance, but with a horizontal crease	£45.00
(c)	As above. Vertical pair in blue, partly imperforate (K7aX). In this rare variety, the upper stamp is completely imperf., the lower stamp being imperf. at top only. Central horizontal fold has a negligible effect on facial appearance, but an extreme effect on the price! Cat. \$400, offered at	£75.00
620	King George V ½d. An interesting perf. 14x15 set of three : (i) On standard De La Rue paper (K13a); (ii) On standard Cowan paper (K13e); (iii) On the experimental, highly surfaced paper of December 1915 (K13b), which had the distinct Cowan 'blanket' texture, but the wide-spaced De La Rue type watermark. A useful little reference set, all mint unhinged	£10.00
621	½d War Stamp (K14a). Marginal block of 6, brilliant mint	£3.75
622	K.G.V 2d Surface Print. Corner block of 4 on Cowan paper, perf. 14x15 (K18d), with sheet serial number. Mint unhinged	£15.00
623	2/- Admiral. Two superb used pairs — one, dated Jan. 1929, in light blue, the other, dated Jan. 1933, in dark blue. These bear out to perfection the following quotation from Volume 1 of the N.Z. Handbook in relation to the Cowan 2/-: "The first printings . . . were in a lighter and brighter blue than the Jones paper, but the shade became progressively deeper, and printings made from 1931 were in dark blue, not much lighter than on the Jones paper."	£47.50
624	1d Dominion — Blocks of Four. A comprehensive run through the eight listed issues of this stamp:	
(i)	De La Rue chalky paper, upright wmk (J1a). Fine mint block	£5.00
(ii)	Jones paper (J2a). Marginal block, unhinged mint	£30.00
(iii)	De La Rue unsurfaced paper (J3a). The good one! Marginal block, mint unhinged. Cat. \$40 per stamp, very special offer at	£40.00
(iv)	De La Rue chalky paper, wmk sideways (J4a). Unhinged mint block	£11.50
(v)	Art paper, litho wmk (J5a). Marginal block, unhinged	£2.75

(vi) Cowan paper (J6a). Very fine mint block	£8.00
(vii) Cowan paper, reversed wmk (J7a). Block, mint unhinged	£45.00
(viii) Wiggins Teape paper. Very fine mint block	£50.00

625	1d Dominion — Major Error. Bottom selvage block of 4 on De La Rue paper, the lower pair being completely imperf. at sides and bottom (J1aR). Cat. \$1000. Mint unhinged, but a little minor gum toning, mainly affecting the normally perforated upper pair, allows	£145.00
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KING GEORGE VI (continued)

626(a)	1½d Rose-red, Coarse Paper (M4c). Mint block of 4, plate 129, including R1/12 doubling	£5.00
(b)	As above. Mint block of 16, also plate 129, including R1/14, 1/15, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 2/14 doubling	£10.00
(c)	As above. Two proving blocks from plates 136 and 137 showing how the plates were laid down from the same transfer roller in vertical columns, starting at R10/1 on plate 136, and finishing on R1/24 plate 137. (Full details provided). The two mint blocks	£10.00
(d)	As above. Three used varieties, all C.P. listed, plate 20 R8/18, plate 21 R4/10, plate 129 R9/22 — MV4c(a, b, c.)	£10.00
(e)	As above. An unmounted marginal mint block of 4 with the "Official" overprint (M04c) — an underrated little stamp	£5.00
627(a)	2d on 1½d (M5a). Two lovely mint shades	50p
(b)	As above. Block of 4, unmounted mint	50p
(c)	As above. Marginal (left selvage) mint block of 4, showing the printers' double attempt to remove the old 'chocolate' plate number, by a printed black obliterating block and a punched hole. Superb	£15.00
(d)	As above. Used marginal (right selvage) single, showing similar drastic measures taken with the plate number	£6.00
(e)	As above. Mint corner block of 6, showing the R10/22 forme 3 variety (broken D) — mentioned in Vol. 2 of the Handbook	£10.00
(f)	As above. Used copies of the plate 20, R8/18 first and second state retouches — MV5a (a and b)	£8.00
(g)	As above. Used copies of plate 21, R4/10 flaw and retouch — MV5a (c and d)	£8.00
(h)	As above. Fine commercially used copy of the major error "re-inserted 2" (guaranteed, of course). S.G. Cat. £250, C.P. Cat. \$650 as mint, offered at	£125.00

628(a)	2d Orange VM paper (M6a). 5 mint shades, pale yellow through to orange, each in block of 4. Beautiful set!	£8.00
(b)	As above. Five similar shades, mint singles	£2.00
(c)	As above. The original "central-bottom-selvedge" imprint/plate blocks (8 stamps each), 14 different, complete except for plate no. 41, and showing a superb array of shades and papers	£17.50
(d)	As above. The later "corner" imprint/plate blocks (4 stamps each) plate no. 140-145 complete, mint	£4.00
(e)	As above. Single stamp on extremely thin "pelure" paper, mint	£1.50
(f)	As above. Imprint/plate block of 8 on this very thin paper	£10.00

About a quarter of a century ago (long before the present extensive use of colour was even dreamed of), the C.P. Catalogue did briefly feature extremely high quality coloured reproductions of the Full-Face 1d, 2d and 1/-. The important point about these plates was that they were **not** just attractive illustrations — they were a very successful attempt at **colour matching** the shades of the London Prints of 1855. The cost of maintaining a satisfactory match proved so prohibitive that these plates were regrettably short-lived, and the number of Catalogues still in use, and containing them, must be small.

We have uncovered a small quantity of colour plate no. 3 (the 1/-), and an even smaller number of no. 2 (the 2d) — alas, none of the 1d.

An historic, invaluable and special addition to your C.P. Catalogue. Each plate, to first-comers, post paid

£5.00

KING GEORGE V

C.P.	S.G.	Unhinged Mint	Hinged Mint	Used
K1a	479a	£2.00	£1.25	80p
K1b	479	£2.00	£1.25	80p
K1c	479b	£37.50	£25.00	—
K1d	497	75p	50p	£1.00
K1e	496	75p	50p	—
K1f	497b	£17.50	£12.50	£20.00
K2a	480a	£6.00	£4.00	£12.50
K2b	480	£6.00	£4.00	£12.50
K2c	480b	£25.00	£17.50	£35.00
K2d	481a	£4.00	£2.75	£12.50
K2e	481	£4.00	£2.75	£12.50
K2f	481b	£17.50	£12.50	£30.00
K2g	498	£3.00	£2.00	—
K3a	482a	£6.00	£4.00	£1.50
K3b	482	£10.00	£7.00	—
K3c	482b	£40.00	£25.00	£40.00

C.P.	S.G.		Unhinged Mint	Hinged Mint	Used
K4a	483a	.....	£7.50	£5.00	60p
K4b	483	.....	£7.50	£5.00	60p
K4c	483b	.....	£35.00	£25.00	—
K4d	499	.....	£3.00	£2.00	—
K5a	484a	.....	£5.00	£3.75	—
K5b	484	.....	£5.00	£3.75	—
K5c	484b	.....	£17.50	£12.50	£60.00
K5d	485a	.....	£7.50	£5.00	10p
K5e	485	.....	£8.75	£5.75	20p
K5f	485c	.....	£35.00	£25.00	£20.00
K5g	—	.....	£7.50	£5.00	20p
K5h	—	.....	£30.00	—	£3.75
K6a	486a	.....	£15.00	£10.00	—
K6b	486	.....	£15.00	£10.00	£9.00
K6c	486b	.....	£50.00	£35.00	—
K7a	487a	.....	£7.50	£5.00	40p
K7b	488	.....	£12.50	£8.50	£4.50
K7c	488b	.....	£50.00	£35.00	£50.00
K8a	489a	.....	£7.50	£5.00	15p
K8b	489	.....	£7.50	£5.00	—
K8c	489b	.....	—	£60.00	£90.00
K8d	500	.....	£10.00	£6.50	—
K9a	490a	.....	£10.00	£6.50	£8.00
K9b	490	.....	£20.00	£13.50	£17.50
K9c	490b	.....	£50.00	£35.00	£35.00
K10a	491a	.....	£10.00	£6.50	—
K10b	491	.....	£12.50	£8.00	—
K10c	491b	.....	£30.00	£20.00	—
K10d	492	.....	£17.50	£12.50	£1.25
K11a	493a	.....	£20.00	£13.50	90p
K11b	493	.....	£25.00	£17.50	—
K11c	493b	.....	£90.00	£65.00	£30.00
K12a	494a	.....	£20.00	£12.00	50p
K12b	494	.....	£15.00	£10.00	25p
K12c	494c	.....	£100.00	£70.00	—
K04a	093a	.....	—	£3.75	95p
K04b	093	.....	—	£3.75	80p
K04c	093b	.....	—	£35.00	—
K04d	0100	.....	—	£3.75	—
K05d	094	.....	£20.00	£12.00	—
K05g	094a	.....	£20.00	£15.00	—
K08a	095a	.....	£4.00	£3.00	25p
K08b	095	.....	£7.50	£5.00	25p
K08c	095b	.....	—	£73.50	—
K010d	096	.....	£135.00	£60.00	£57.50
K011a	097	.....	£47.50	£37.50	£35.00
K012a	098a	.....	—	£10.00	£8.00
K012b	098	.....	—	£8.00	£2.00
K012c	098b	.....	—	£82.50	—
K13a	503	.....	50p	30p	10p
K13b	504a	.....	£12.50	£7.50	—

C.P.	S.G.		Unhinged Mint	Hinged Mint	Used
K13c	519	.....	£5.00	£3.00	—
K13d	527	.....	£1.00	60p	—
K13e	530	.....	35p	20p	10p
K13f	530a	.....	50p	30p	20p
K13g	—	.....	£3.00	£2.00	90p
K14a	510	.....	50p	30p	10p
K15a	541	.....	—	25p	3p
K15b	541c	.....	75p	40p	3p
K15c	—	.....	£12.50	£7.50	—
K15d	543a	.....	£6.00	£4.00	—
K16a	501	.....	£5.00	£3.00	10p
K17a	505	.....	£3.00	£1.75	5p
K17b	506	.....	£1.50	80p	3p
K17c	532	.....	£5.00	£3.00	£6.00
K17d	532a	.....	£45.00	£25.00	—
K17e	535b	.....	£30.00	£17.50	—
K18a	507	.....	£1.00	60p	3p
K18b	522	.....	£3.00	£2.00	—
K18c	529	.....	£3.75	£2.00	—
K18d	533	.....	£3.00	£2.00	10p
K18e	533a	.....	£2.50	£1.50	10p
K18f	—	.....	£10.00	£7.50	£25.00
K18g	535c	.....	£5.00	£3.00	£5.00
K18h	535d	.....	£6.25	£3.00	£5.00
K19a	509	.....	£7.50	£4.50	30p
K19b	523	.....	£18.00	£12.00	—
K19c	534	.....	£7.50	£4.50	60p
K19d	534a	.....	£10.00	£6.00	£2.00
K20a	539	.....	£60.00	£35.00	—
K20b	542	.....	—	£25.00	£10.00
K21a	540	.....	£110.00	£67.50	—
K21b	543	.....	—	£50.00	—
K013a	086	.....	18p	15p	8p
K013c	0102	.....	—	£1.75	£1.75
K013e	0106	.....	18p	15p	8p
K013f	0106a	.....	20p	17p	17p
K013g	—	.....	—	—	£4.00
K015a	0111	.....	£2.25	£1.50	8p
K015b	0111b	.....	—	—	8p
K016a	087	.....	£7.00	£5.00	£1.75
K017a	088	.....	£2.00	£1.25	25p
K017b	089	.....	—	75p	25p
K017c	0108	.....	£5.00	£3.00	—
K017d	0108b	.....	—	£5.00	£15.00
K018a	090	.....	—	£2.00	6p
K018e	0109	.....	—	£2.00	20p
K019a	091	.....	£10.00	£7.00	40p
K019b	0104	.....	—	£10.00	£1.25
K019c	0110	.....	—	£5.00	40p
K019d	0110b	.....	—	—	£1.25
K020b	0112	.....	—	£75.00	£75.00